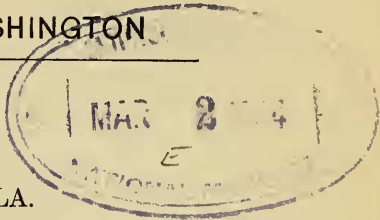


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



NEW BIRDS FROM ANGOLA.

BY RUDYERD BOULTON.¹

Among the birds collected by the Pulitzer Angola Expedition of the Carnegie Museum, a guinea fowl and a flycatcher appear to be undescribed.² To Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd, of the Carnegie Museum, I am indebted for his cordial cooperation and permission to continue studies on this collection. Dr. James P. Chapin, of the American Museum of Natural History, and Mr. H. B. Conover, of Field Museum, have kindly loaned specimens for comparison.

Numida meleagris bodalyae, new subspecies.

Type.—From Chitau, 5000', District of Bihé, Angola; adult male; January 31, 1931; collected by R. and L. Boulton, Pulitzer Angola Expedition; Carnegie Museum No. 109265.

Diagnosis.—Differs from all races of Helmeted Guinea fowl, except *marungensis*, in the bulbous shape and lemon chrome color of the casque. From *marungensis* it differs in much larger size, especially in wing, tarsus and casque (see figure 1). Upper breast distinctly bluer than in *marungensis*, the white bars on the outer webs of the wing feathers averaging finer and closer together. In *bodalyae* the white spots on the underparts are in greater contrast to the black ground color, than in *marungensis*.

Description.—Head and throat bare, except for a few black hair-like feathers. On the back of the neck a "mane" of black, semi-decomposed, bristly feathers which point forward. Feathers of the lower throat and neck and upper back and breast, black with six or seven narrow bars of bluish white. The tips of the barbs of the feathers are suffused with cerulean blue, giving a bluish cast to the upper breast. Rest of the plumage black, spotted with white, the spots on the outer webs of the tectrices elongated into saw-tooth white marks. Freckling of the feathers of the back very fine (some specimens show almost none). Skin of face and neck, dark blue, lighter under the eye, on the chin and malar region; iris, brown;

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²See Boulton, Rudyerd, 1931. Ann. Carnegie Museum, "New Species and Subspecies of African Birds," Vol. XXI, No. 1, for other new birds collected by this expedition.

bill, greenish horn; casque, smooth lemon chrome; wattles, blue tipped with red; rough skin of forehead, bright red; rough skin of skull, yellow-brown; legs and feet, black. Wing, 315 mm. Tail, 160 mm. Culmen (from skin of forehead), 27.1 mm. Tarsus, 83 mm. Casque: length, 44 mm.; depth, 17 mm.; width, 16 mm.

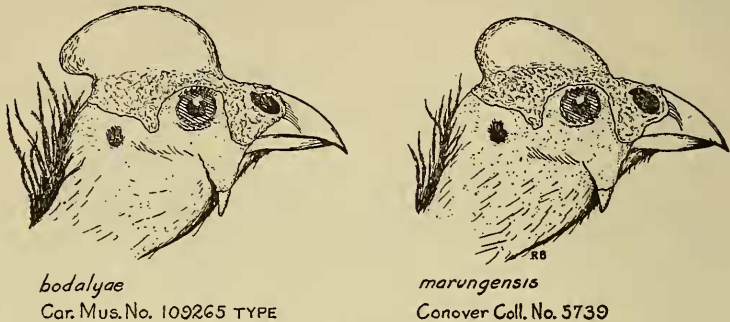


Fig. 1.—Heads of Guinea Fowl (one-half natural size).

Remarks.—I take pleasure in naming this distinctive guinea fowl in honor of Mrs. Jean Bodaly of Missão Chitau, hostess to many naturalists who have visited Angola.

Series of four specimens of *marungensis* and eight of *bodalyae* are remarkably uniform in size and reference to the following measurements show that, with respect to length of wing, tarsus, and length and depth of casque, there is an appreciable difference with no overlap. This coupled with the greater amount of blue on the breast in the Angolan series, confirms the suspicion I had when collecting the type that this was a new form of guinea fowl.

N. m. marungensis: wing, 295–300 (296.8); culmen, 25.5–26.7 (25.9); tarsus, 71–76 (74.0); length of casque, 31–34 (32.5); depth of casque, 12–13 (12.8); width of casque, 11–14 (12.5).

N. m. bodalyae: wing, 310–320 (314.0); culmen, 25.0–29.0 (27.1); tarsus, 78–84 (81.6); length of casque, 39–45 (43.1); depth of casque, 15–20 (16.5); width of casque, 13–18 (15.1).

Angola birds in fresh plumage collected in April and July show even more blue than does the type and can be immediately distinguished on this character alone from two Marungu birds taken in April. The type of *bodalyae* taken in January, when compared with two *marungensis* collected in December and January, is distinguished principally by its greater size and by the greater purity of the black and white markings, which in the Katanga birds are decidedly brownish in tone and more freckled with tiny dots of white between the larger white spots on the back.

There are apparently four races of guinea fowl inhabiting Angola, as follows:

Numida meleagris callewaerti Chapin. Angola, north of the Quanza

River. Helmet low, not bulbous; white spotting similar to that in *marchei*. Localities: Duque de Braganza, Kuango River. No specimens examined.³ *Numida meleagris bodalyae* Boulton. Central highlands of Benguella and Bihé, probably extending eastward through the province of Lunda. Characters as above. Localities: *Chitau*;⁴ *Dando* (west bank Quanza River). Eight specimens examined.

Numida meleagris maxima Neumann. Plateau of southern Angola, intergrading with *papillosa* at Chipopia, 20 kilometers west of Capelongo (2 specimens). Helmet horny, straight, broad, laterally compressed; much brownish freckling on the back; smaller than *bodalyae*. Localities: *Capelongo*, *Caconda*, *Galanga*. 3 specimens examined.

Numida meleagris papillosa Reichenow. Southern and coastal Angola, generally at lower altitudes and in drier country than *maxima*. Helmet horny, slender, cylindrical, generally decurved, sometimes strongly hooked; distinct papillae or caruncles on the forehead; white spots on back small, more freckling on back and tail than in *maxima*. Localities: *Mulondo*, *Kilo 101 (Mossamedes Ry.)*, *Lwando*, *Chingoroi*, *Caleueque*, *Huilla*, *Rio Coroca*, *Humbe*, *Gambos*. 10 specimens examined (plus 2 *maxima* > *papillosa* from Chipopia).

I have not been able to compare specimens with skins from Southwest Africa. It is possible that southern Angola birds are referable to *damarensis* Roberts rather than to *papillosa* Reichenow.⁵

Batis margaritae, new species.

Type.⁶—From Moco Mt., 6500', District of Benguella, Angola; adult female; February 24, 1931; collected by R. and L. Boulton, Pulitzer Angola Expedition; Carnegie Museum No. 109439.

Diagnosis.—Different from any known species. Combines the brown wing coverts of *B. capensis* and *B. mixta* with the black chest of *B. diops*.

Description.—Crown, back and rump, blue gray; forehead and narrow line above the lores, white; lores, superciliary line, cheeks, auriculars and indistinct collar about the neck, black; throat, white; broad breast band, black; belly and flanks white, faintly suffused with a wash of chestnut; thighs, black; primaries and secondaries, black, broadly margined at the base of the inner web with white, and narrowly margined on the outer web with bluish gray; the two innermost secondaries (but not the tertiaries) broadly margined with white on the outer web, producing a longitudinal white stripe on the wing; all of the secondaries narrowly tipped with white; primary coverts broadly edged with bluish gray; greater coverts, black; middle coverts, rich chestnut with a hidden basal area of black; lesser coverts, black; axillaries, white; under wing coverts and upper tail coverts, black; under tail coverts, white; tail, black tipped with white, the outer web of the outermost rectrix, white. Bill, legs and feet, black; iris, red with

³See Chapin, J. P. 1932, Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 570, p. 2.

⁴Localities in italics are those of specimens examined.

⁵See Sclater, W. L. 1924, Syst. Av. Eth. p. 97.

⁶A female is selected for the type since it shows characters more distinctive than those of males.

an orange circle next to the pupil. Wing, 67.5 mm. Tail, 48 mm. Exposed culmen, 11.5 mm. Tarsus, 20 mm.

Specimens examined.—*B. margaritae*: 2 ♂, 3 ♀, Mt. Moco, 6500', Angola (Boulton). *B. diops*: 1 ♂, Mt. Ruwenzori, 7000', 1 ♀, Mt. Mikeno, 7900', Belgian Congo (Chapin). *B. mixta*: 6 ♂, 10 ♀, Mt. Rungwe, 5650–6000', Tanganyika Territory (Boulton). *B. capensis dimorpha*: 4 ♂, 5 ♀, Mt. Mlanje, 6000', Nyasaland (Boulton). *B. capensis erythrophthalma*: 2 ♂, 4 ♀, Mt. Selinda, 4000', S. Rhodesia (Boulton).

Remarks.—I have always thought of the genus *Batis* as being essentially feminine in character and I therefore name this species after Margaret Pulitzer (Mrs. Ralph Pulitzer).

A male paratype resembles the type in all details except that it lacks the suffused wash of chestnut on the belly and the middle wing coverts are white instead of chestnut, producing a white patch on the wing in addition to the longitudinal white stripe. It consequently closely resembles the males of *capensis* and *mixta* from which it may be distinguished by having the narrow white line on the forehead and above the lores.

B. margaritae has been found only in the dense mountain rain-forests of Mt. Moco, occupying there the same habitat that *diops*, *mixta* and *capensis* do in their respective ranges. It is probably restricted to this type of forest. By an interesting combination of characters, it shows its relationship to east and south African birds, a phenomenon that becomes increasingly important as our knowledge of the birds of the mountain forests of Angola grows.